NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Feb. 24, 2004 Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/232-3396

Angela Nussmeyer, 317/233-5050



Joseph E. Kernan, Governor Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Mount Vernon's Infinity Molding

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$49,082 grant to Mount Vernon's Infinity Molding and Assembly, Inc. to train 15 employees.

Infinity Molding and Assembly, Inc. was founded in 1982 as Mid American Plastics. The company is a custom plastic injection molder specializing in the precise molding of intricate thermoplastic and insert-molded parts. It also provides assembly service from prototype to full automation as well as pad printing, ultrasonic welding, and 2-shot molding.

"Infinity Molding understands the need to upgrade the skills of their workforce in order to remain competitive in the automotive industry," said Kernan. "Training in advanced manufacturing techniques will help keep Hoosier businesses, like Infinity, viable in the global marketplace and build our economy. The company's commitment to its employees should be commended and we look forward to the successful completion of this project."

Competition within the automotive industry has become increasingly intense. Given current market pressures, Infinity must automate many of its processes. This requires additional training to increase the skill levels of its employees. The grant funds, which are leveraged by a \$22,562 match from Infinity, will allow each employee to receive an average of 40 hours of training and 20 hours of team development and application practice. The combination of classroom learning and quick application of lessons learned will enhance the employees' job performances. At the end of the training program, each participant will earn a state-issued 10-core certificate of technical achievement in advanced manufacturing.

"This is just the type of government support needed to maintain the American manufacturing sector as the benchmark in the new global marketplace," stated Lloyd Childress, President and CEO of Infinity Molding and Assembly, Inc.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.